

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARK SAMPSON

Plaintiff(s)

v.

WAL-MART ASSOCIATES, INC.

Defendant(s)

SCHEDULING ORDER

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00036 DJC KJN

I. SERVICE OF PROCESS

The named defendant has been served as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5. No further service is permitted without leave of the Court, good cause having been shown under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).

II. JOINDER OF ADDITIONAL PARTIES / AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS

No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted after 6/30/2023 without leave of the Court, good cause having been shown. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b); *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 27 604 (9th Cir. 1992).

III. DISCOVERY PROCEDURES

Discovery matters that do not implicate the schedule of the case or that do not relate to sealing or redaction of documents related to dispositive motions are referred to the assigned United States Magistrate Judge, who will hear all discovery disputes

1 subject to his or her procedures. All discovery documents must include the words
2 "DISCOVERY MATTER" in the caption to ensure proper routing. Do not direct delivery
3 of courtesy copies of these documents to the District Judge. Counsel are directed to
4 review and comply with the case management procedures of the assigned Magistrate
5 Judge when setting applicable discovery matters for hearing. All motions to compel
6 discovery must be noticed on the assigned Magistrate Judge's calendar in
7 accordance with the local rules of this Court and the Magistrate Judge's own
8 procedures.

9 The written ruling of the assigned Magistrate Judge shall be final, subject to
10 modification by the District Judge only where it has been shown that the Magistrate
11 Judge's order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).
12 Pursuant to Local Rule 303, any party may file and serve a "Request for
13 Reconsideration by the District Judge of Magistrate Judge's Ruling." See L.R. 303(c).
14 The requesting party must file and serve any such request within fourteen (14) days of
15 service of a written ruling. L.R. 303(b). The request must specify which portions of the
16 ruling are clearly erroneous or contrary to law and the basis for that contention with
17 supporting points and authorities. L.R. 303(c).

18 In addition, the assigned Magistrate Judge reviews proposed discovery phase
19 protective orders sought by the parties pursuant to Local Rule 141.1. However,
20 requests to seal or redact in connection with dispositive motions or trial are decided
21 by Judge Calabretta and any such requests must comply with Judge Calabretta's
22 Standing Order and Local Rules 140 and 141.

23 **IV. DISCOVERY DEADLINES**

24 **A. Rule 26(a) Initial Disclosures**

25 If not already completed, all parties appearing shall make initial disclosures
26 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 26(a)(1) within 14 days after the
27 parties' Rule 26(f) conference. Any parties served or joined after the issuance of this
28 scheduling order shall "make the initial disclosures within 30 days after being served

1 or joined," as provided by Rule 26(a)(1)(D).

2 **B. Fact Discovery**

3 All fact discovery shall be completed¹ no later than **10/6/2023**.

4 **C. Expert Discovery**

5 The parties shall disclose initial experts and produce reports in accordance with
6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) by no later than **11/6/2023**. With regard to
7 expert testimony intended solely for rebuttal, those experts shall be disclosed and
8 reports produced in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) on or
9 before **12/6/2023**. All expert discovery shall be completed no later than **1/5/2024**.

10 Disclosures of expert witnesses, if any, must be made pursuant to Federal Rule
11 of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(A), (B) and (C), and shall include all information required
12 thereunder. Each expert witness must be fully prepared to be examined on all
13 subjects and opinions included in the disclosures. Failure to comply with these
14 requirements may result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions, including the
15 preclusion of the expert's testimony, or of other evidence offered through the expert.

16 **D. Joint Mid-Discovery Statement**

17 By **7/7/2023**, all parties shall file with the Court a brief Joint Mid-Discovery
18 Statement summarizing the current status of discovery proceedings. In this statement,
19 parties should state whether parties are actively engaged in discovery and identify any
20 issues preventing discovery from proceeding in a timely manner. The filing of this
21 statement shall not relieve the parties or counsel of their obligations to meet and
22 confer, comply the deadlines set by the court, and timely notice all appropriate
23 discovery motions.

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25 ¹ As used herein, the word "completed" means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all
26 depositions have been taken and any disputes relevant to discovery shall have been resolved by
27 appropriate order if necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been obeyed.
28 The parties are advised that motions to compel must be filed in advance of the discovery completion
deadlines so that the Court may grant effective relief within the allotted discovery time. A party's failure
to have a discovery dispute heard sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff may result in denial of
the motion as untimely.

1 **V. MOTIONS**

2 All motions, except motions for continuances, temporary restraining orders, or
3 other emergency applications, shall be filed on or before **3/15/2024** and shall be
4 noticed for hearing before Judge Calabretta on **5/9/2024 at 1:30 p.m.** Counsel are
5 directed to refer to the local rules and Judge Calabretta's Standing Order regarding
6 the requirements for noticing and opposing such motions on the Court's regularly
7 scheduled law and motion calendar.

8 All moving and opposition briefs or legal memoranda in civil cases shall not
9 exceed twenty-five pages without prior leave of court. Reply briefs filed by moving
10 parties shall not exceed fifteen pages. The Court will grant an application to extend
11 these page limitations only after good cause shown. Pages that exceed the page
12 limitations without leave of court will not be considered. Finally, no supplemental
13 briefs or sur-replies shall be filed and will not be considered without prior leave of
14 court.

15 Prior to filing a motion for summary judgment or motion for partial summary
16 judgment (summary adjudication), the parties are ordered to meet and confer, in
17 person or by telephone, to discuss the issues to be raised in the motion as required by
18 Judge Calabretta's Standing Order. Failure to do so may result in denial of the
19 motion. **In addition to complying with the requirements of Local Rule 260, the**
20 **parties must prepare a Joint Statement of Undisputed Facts, which identifies all**
21 **relevant facts subject to agreement by all parties.** The moving party is responsible
22 for filing the joint statement concurrently with the motion. In the notice of motion, the
23 moving party shall certify that the parties have met and conferred as ordered above or
24 provide a statement of good cause for the failure to do so. In addition to the above,
25 when filing any motion, parties should reference and ensure compliance with Judge
26 Calabretta's Standing Order.

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1 **VI. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

2 No Settlement Conference is currently scheduled. If the parties wish to have a
3 settlement conference, one will be scheduled at the final pretrial conference or at an
4 earlier time upon request of the parties.

5 **VII. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

6 The final pretrial conference is set for **8/1/2024 at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 10
7 before District Court Judge Daniel J. Calabretta. Hearings may be conducted by
8 Zoom upon the joint request of all parties.

9 The parties are directed to file a **joint** pretrial statement that complies with the
10 requirements of this Local Rule 281 and Judge Calabretta's Standing Order. Counsel
11 shall also email a copy of the joint pretrial statement in Word format to Judge
12 Calabretta's chambers at djcorders@caed.uscourts.gov.

13 The parties' attention is directed to Local Rules 281 and 282. This Court will
14 insist upon strict compliance with these rules. At the pretrial conference, the Court will
15 set deadlines to file trial documents, including motions *in limine*, trial briefs, and
16 proposed jury *voir dire*, instructions, and verdict forms (where applicable).

17 **VIII. JURY TRIAL**

18 A jury trial is set for **10/7/2024 at 9:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 10 before District
19 Court Judge Daniel J. Calabretta. Trial is anticipated to last 5 court days.

20 **IX. RELATED MATTERS PENDING**

21 The parties have not alerted the court to any related litigation.

22 **X. OBJECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE SCHEDULING ORDER**

23 **This case schedule will become final without further order of the Court**
24 **unless objections are filed within fourteen (14) days of the entry of this order.**

25 The schedule, once final, shall not be modified except by leave of the Court upon
26 showing of good cause. Counsel shall contact Judge Calabretta's courtroom deputy,
27 Gabriel Michel, via e-mail at gmichel@caed.uscourts.gov, prior to filing a stipulation
28 and proposed order to continue the dates set forth herein.

1 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of
2 Civil Procedure, no stipulations extending scheduling requirements or modifying
3 applicable rules are effective until and unless the Court approves them. Agreement of
4 the parties by stipulation alone does not constitute good cause. Counsel are
5 cautioned that requests or stipulations to continue dispositive motion deadlines or
6 trial dates must establish good cause exists and are not granted lightly.

7 Any request or stipulation to modify this scheduling order must set forth:

- 8 (1) the existing due date or hearing date as well as the discovery cutoff date,
9 the last date for hearing motions, the final pretrial conference date, and
10 the trial date;
- 11 (2) whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether
12 these were granted or denied by the Court; and
- 13 (3) specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting of the
14 extension. For example, if the reason for the requested extension is that
15 it "will promote settlement," the requesting party or parties must indicate
16 the status of ongoing negotiations, e.g., that a mediator has been
17 selected; written proposals have been exchanged; a draft settlement
18 agreement is being reviewed by counsel; etc.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Dated: May 17, 2023

/s/ Daniel J. Calabretta

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THE HONORABLE DANIEL J. CALABRETTA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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